

**PRESS****RELEASE**

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BREAKING NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 2011

Devaney Announces Retirement, Ends Storied Government Career

WASHINGTON—Earl E. Devaney, the Chairman of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, announced today that he is retiring after 41 years of service in the federal government.

In a letter to President Obama, Devaney said his resignation was effective December 31. He resigned from the Recovery Board and two other posts—as the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior and as the Chairman of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board.

Devaney, a champion of government openness and a prudent custodian of taxpayer funds, took the occasion to laud those with whom he has worked.

Praising the “dedicated employees of the Interior Office of Inspector General,” Devaney said that the IG staff “has worked tirelessly to uncover inefficiencies, waste, and fraud—some instances of which have no doubt shocked the nation.”

Devaney worked closely with Vice President Joe Biden on Recovery Board issues and praised Biden for his “thoughtful devotion to this historic undertaking.” He went on to applaud the work of his fellow Inspectors General on the Recovery Board.

He also said that Government Accountability and Transparency Board, created by the President last June in his campaign against waste, fraud and abuse, was preparing to propose “concrete methods” for improving oversight and transparency of all federal funds.

Devaney began his law enforcement career as a Massachusetts police officer in 1968. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1970 and joined the Secret Service in January 1971. At the time of his retirement from the Secret Service in 1991, Devaney was the Special Agent-in-Charge of the agency’s fraud division. He went on to become Director of the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training for the Environmental Protection Agency, a job that gave him the responsibility for EPA criminal investigations.

In 1999, President Clinton appointed Devaney the Inspector General of the Interior Department. There, he won considerable acclaim, overseeing investigations that led to the convictions of Jack Abramoff, a Washington super-lobbyist, and J. Steven Griles, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department.

(more)

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to oversee the expenditure of Recovery funds and bring transparency and accountability to the process. The Board consists of a chairman, Earl E. Devaney, and 12 federal Inspectors General. The Board runs the Recovery.gov website that provides information on the Recovery initiatives and spearheads an accountability effort that involves both federal and state investigators and enforcement officials.

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He also directed a highly-publicized investigation into the old Minerals Management Service (now the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement), the agency that collects royalties on oil and gas. Devaney found "a culture of ethical failure" pervaded the royalties program, including gifts, illicit sexual misconduct, and drug abuse.

President Obama named Devaney the Chairman of the Recovery Board on February 23, 2009. "For nearly a decade as Inspector General at the Interior Department," the President said then, "Earl has doggedly pursued waste, fraud and mismanagement, and Joe (Biden) and I can't think of a more tenacious and efficient guardian of the hard-earned tax dollars the American people have entrusted us to wisely invest."

As Board Chairman, Devaney has emphasized the importance of preventing or interrupting fraudulent activities in the \$840 billion Recovery program. Senior government officials and others have praised Devaney for his decision to develop the Recovery Operations Center, a state-of-the-art analysis and investigations center designed to screen out risky projects and prevent fraud, waste and mismanagement.

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